Duty free access to US markets by Textile Industry

1773. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that textile industry has sought duty free access to US markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) US applies high tariff rates on import of textile and clothing. The Indian textile industry has been seeking reduction in import duties to get larger access to the US markets. Government is pursuing the issue of lower tariffs in US market through the Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Development and Promotion of handloom in Uttaranchal

1774. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government for development and promotion of handloom and other weaving varieties in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the fixed targets have been achieved in this behalf; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The measures taken by the Government of India for development and promotion of handloom and other weaving varieties in the Country, including the State of Uttaranchal are through various developmental and welfare schemes as detailed under:—

(i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

(ii) Marketing Promotion Programme

(iii) Handloom Export Scheme

(iv) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

(v) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

(vi) Health Insurance Scheme

(vii) Weavers Welfare Scheme

(viii) Integrated Handloom Training Programme

(ix) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(x) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Programme

(b) and (c) No State-wise targets are fixed under the schemes. Central assistance is released on the basis of viable proposals recommended as per the guidelines of the respective schemes by the State Governments.

Closure of NTC mills

1775. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The number of NTC mills closed during each of the last **three** years; State-wise;

(b) whether the workers dues were paid to the workers of all the closed mills;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, mill-wise and the steps being taken to pay the dues to the workers without any further delay;

(d) The number of NTC mills proposed to be run continuously and modernized for the purpose; state-wise; and

(e) the reasons if any, for delay in modernization of viable NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per the Rehabilitation Scheme approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), 65 unviable units have been closed under Industrial Disputes (ID) Act. The details of year wise no. of closed mills is as under:—

Financial Year	No. of mills closed
2002-03	33
2003-04	19
2004-05	13